

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 354  
 SPONSOR: Senator Carlton  
 SUBJECT: Bright Futures Scholarship Testing Program  
 DATE: March 27, 2003      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	_____	_____	ED	Withdrawn
2.	_____	_____	AED	Withdrawn
3.	Bryant	Coburn	AP	Favorable/CS
4.	_____	_____	RC	Withdrawn
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**I. Summary:**

This bill repeals the Bright Futures Scholarship testing requirement.

This bill repeals the following sections of the Florida Statutes: s. 1009.539, F.S.

**II. Present Situation:**

Section 42 of Chapter 2001-170, the education governance bill from the 2001 session, requires initial Bright Futures award recipients for the 2002-03 fiscal year who enroll in a community college or state university to take examinations in the following 5 areas: English, Humanities, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences. Successful completion of IB, AP, and/or dual enrollment courses also count toward meeting this requirement. Tests are to be taken prior to registering for any course for which credit may be earned through one of these alternative mechanisms. The General Appropriations Act for 2002-03 provided \$7.9 million in funding to cover the costs of purchasing and administering, at the respective college or university, the required CLEP tests. Because of the newness of this requirement, the implementing bill accompanying the 2002-03 Appropriations Act temporarily extended the time new students could take the CLEP tests from prior to initial registration until the end of the student's first school year.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

This bill repeals the testing requirement. In a review of the Fall 2002 term experience, OPPAGA found that:

- Approximately \$8.1 million would be needed for the costs of the program for the year.
- The CLEP pass rate declined from a historical 60%+ to around 22%.

- The low pass rate leads to a high cost per credit hour awarded. For example, recurring costs for 75,600 earned credit hours estimated for FY 2002-03 would be a cost of \$80 per credit hour earned.
- However, future savings depend on students voluntarily accelerating their graduation. Students may choose to use their Bright Futures credits to graduate earlier and thereby save the state money or they may choose to use these credits to take additional courses or earn a minor or second major. This leaves the program with high costs and uncertain savings.

The articulation language in this section authorizing college credit for successful completion of a CLEP exam, which will be repealed, also exists in Section 1007.27(2) and (3) F.S.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

#### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

C. Government Sector Impact:

University and Community Colleges will not be required to administer the mandatory tests leading to a \$7.9 million savings.

#### **VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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